

Chequire House
202 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-455 HABS

VA

7-ALEX

72.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

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Present Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Henry Carter Land, Jr.

Present Occupant and Use: Residence and Business

Description:

Brick, Flemish Bond, Aquia Stone trim.

Number of Stories: $3\frac{1}{2}$ with ell

Historical Data:

Year of erection: About 1797. Restored by Messrs. Thomas E. and
Lawrence J. Waggamon (1942-1947)

Built for (first owner): Bernard Chequire

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Bernard Chequire

Notable events and occupants:

Chequire House exemplifies the manner of life of a prosperous mercantile class. His store and warehouse facilities were located on the ground floor and his living quarters upstairs. The entrance to the home establishment was to one side of the shop. Hallway and stair hall beyond are spacious and handsome. The staircase leading to third floor is well-proportioned and well-lighted. Mantels are fine and have marble facings. The Long Room across the entire second front is a room of distinction - with a delicate plaster cornice, recalling examples at "The Octagon" and "Woodlawn Plantation".

Bernard Chequire or "Ghequire" as it appeared in print, announced in the Alexandria Gazette of April 5, 1793, his business stand at the corner of Fairfax and King Sts. His business flourished and by November 6, 1798, as shown by his policy with the Virginia Assurance Society, he was located in the building bearing his name. This was insured for \$10,000. The plot plan accompanying it referred to a wood house; probably a warehouse next door at the corner of King and Water Sts. On the western side Colonel George Gilpin had built a near-duplicate which still stands.

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For reasons unknown, Chequire disposed of his property in Alexandria and moved to Baltimore, perhaps joining his brother, who was already well established there. Jonathan Swift, a young and rising merchant of town, succeeded him in ownership.

References: Gay Montague Moore, Seaport in Virginia..., Richmond, 1949, Plate VIII, op. p. 3. HABI form, prepared by T. Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service.

Approved Dick Sutton Date Feb. 16, 1954